Skill Procedures: Spinal Immobilization - Supine Patient



I. Usage

1. This protocol is designed illustrate the steps necessary to properly immobilize the patient who presents with possible spinal injuries and is laying supine. This protocol assumes a stable patient who is not in cardiac arrest. This protocol requires a minimum of three rescuers working together. If possible, four rescuers should be utilized during this protocol.

II. Procedural Protocols

- The first rescuer will apply and maintain neutral cervical spine alignment during the entire procedure until the head and body are secured as a unit to the long board.
- 2. The second rescuer applies the proper size cervical collar.
- 3. Place the patient with legs extended. One arm (uninjured) will be extended up by the head, providing spacing when the patient is rolled on their side. The other arm is placed by the patient's side.
- 4. The long board is placed next to the patient. If one arm is injured, placed the board next to the injured side. This will force the patient to be rolled onto his/her uninjured side.
- 5. The rescuers will get into position to logroll the patient.
 - A. The second rescuer will kneel in position next to the patient's chest. One hand should be placed on the patient's shoulder. The other hand should be placed on the patient's flank, by the waist.
 - B. The third rescuer will kneel in position next to the patient's thigh. One hand should be placed on the patient's hand and hip. The other hand should be placed on the patient's leg, by the knee.
 - C. Both rescuers should be positioned directly opposite the long spine board.

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II. Procedural Protocols (continued)

- 6. When all rescuers are in position, the first rescuer will give the order to roll the patient onto their side.
 - A. The first rescuer will maintain neutral alignment of the patients head during the logroll movement.
 - B. The second and third rescuers will roll the victim onto his/her side, towards the rescuers.
- 7. While the patient is on their side, the patient's back, buttocks and legs are inspected for injuries by the second rescuer (If a fourth rescuer is available, they should conduct the survey).
- 8. The long spine board is placed next to the patient.
 - A. If four rescuers are available, the fourth rescuer should hold the long spine board at a 30-45 degree angle.
 - B. If only three rescuer's are available, the long spine board is slid into place by rescuers two and three, and is left laying flat on the ground.
- 9. When the long board is in position, the first rescuer will give the order to roll the patient onto the long spine board.
- 10. Refer to the Securing the Patient to a Long Spine Board for actions on properly securing the patient to the long spine board.

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